

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1 -13, 16-27, 29-37, 39-45, 48-61 and 64-71 are pending in the present application including independent claims 1, 27, 45 and 49.

In the Office Action, the independent claims were rejected in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0250828 to Luan, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0020504 to Snaidr either alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 4,739,775 to Hampl. In response, enclosed is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R.1.131. As stated in the Declaration, the invention claimed in the presently pending application was reduced to practice prior to the effective date of Luan and Snaidr. Consequently, Luan and Snaidr are not prior art to the currently pending claims.

As such, Applicants submit that the presently pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Should Examiner Walls Mayes, however, have any questions with respect to the enclosed Declaration or should any other issues arise, she is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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